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Charging at the Cord

The eyes of a competitor focuses on a sharp corner of a section during the 68th Promotion Corduroy Enduro on the track behind the Robert McCausland Memorial Community Centre in Gooderham on Saturday, Sept. 24. This multi-day event, which offered a \$11,500 purse, included hundreds of riders competing from Sept. 22 to 25. Presented by GP Bikes, this event also included the Vintage Grand Prix and Vintage Bike Show. New this year were the e-mountain bike and electric enduro races. See more photos on page 8. /DARREN LUM Staff

Opposition grows against proposed Dysart condo development

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A group of residents is lobbying council for the protection of local forests and wet-

lands against a proposed condo development.

The group, Friends of Grass Lake (FGL), has collected more than 900 signatures on two petitions urging the protection of Haliburton's forests and wet-

lands ecosystem. The first petition garnered more than 400 signatures in July. The second in August netted more than 500 names.

Both petitions have been forwarded to Dysart town council.

The group opposes proposed zoning bylaw amendments to allow a Harburn Holdings application for condominium development on Peninsula Road on Grass

see MAYOR page 2



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For Grace

Dozens participated in the Saving Grace Walk and Ceremony event held in Haliburton on Saturday, Sept. 24. Led by the Land Between and the Turtle Guardians charity, the event encouraged those who came to show their support for all turtles and, in particular, the 125-year-old snapping turtle with one eye. Grace's whereabouts is now unknown since the wetland where it wintered was disturbed this past winter, to become an ally by writing letters to local municipal governments for environmental protection, petition for a commemoration for Grace, who is suspected to have not survived the winter, sign up for a newsletter to stay informed and attend council meetings. An Ontario elder, a Toronto Zoo representative and Friends of Grass Lake representatives were also in attendance. /DARREN LUM Staff



Leora Berman, founder of The Land Between and Turtle Guardians, speaks to people about the importance of turtles and about Grace the snapping turtle.



Rotary helps

Jim Joseph, from left, Heather Phillips, Jade Downey, and Andy Glecoff, members of the Rotary Club of Haliburton, added new stone to the tracks below the Haliburton Rotary Locomotive on Friday, Sept. 23. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

Mayor: 'Nothing's been hidden or kept from the public'

from page 1

Lake.

Harburn Holdings has an application before council to amend the county's Official Plan and zoning bylaw that would pave the way for lot severance and the construction of 88 condominium units.

Dysart's town council will host a special public meeting on the issue Sept. 29, to be conducted over Zoom.

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said she's met with FGL members on a number of occasions. Information about the issue has been available on the town's website for over a year.

"Nothing's been hidden or kept from the public," she said.

Indeed, informing and engaging the public is part of the municipal planning process in any municipality. Everything pertaining to the application is on the town's website.

FGL is urging council to defer a decision on the issue until after the Oct. 24 election so the new municipal gov-

ernment will judge ye or nay on the proposal.

"The environment is our greatest resource, the foundation of our local economy, and, indeed, of our very health and wellbeing," said Catherine Swift, the group's spokesperson.

Anthony Usher, a planning consultant representing Harburn Holdings, said public conversation between the various parties takes place through public meetings, and that's part of the planning process.

"This is why the public meeting is taking place," he said.

Swift said other municipalities have established long-term visions for their regions, which include Green Infrastructure Plans and site alteration bylaws to ensure a balance between development and environmental concerns.

According to FGL, Dysart appears to have taken the approach of approving or rejecting proposals on an ad hoc basis instead of having an established vision as to which types of proposals would be acceptable to enable the region to grow in a sustainable manner.

Roberts said the town has a responsibility to receive development applications. The town is in need of housing. If the applicant has met all the requirements of the Official Plan and relevant legislation, the application may proceed.

FGL said in a press release that the announcement of a public meeting on the application was a surprise as many outstanding issues remain to be resolved before the project can be properly evaluated.

Given that the proposed development has garnered so much attention, Roberts said a meeting outside the regularly scheduled public meetings gives people ample time to voice their concerns and have their questions answered.

FGL has sent a letter to the mayor, councillors, and

candidates in the Oct. 24 election.

Dysart planning staff recommendations on this large and unprecedented development will be submitted to council and the public before council and staff have had an opportunity for an informed conversation with D.M. Wills, the professional planning firm representing FGL.

Usher said D.M. Wills made two submissions to Dysart in March and June. And he responded to each of them.

"As the applicant's representative, I have repeatedly offered to have an 'informed conversation' with D.M. Wills," he said. "They have never accepted."

Swift said it's a surprise members of the current council, most of whom are not running for re-election, would call a public meeting on this vital issue just weeks before the election.

"The fact the mayor and most councillors will not be around post-election means their accountability for any decision made is questionable," she said.

Swift said rushing a timeline on the proposal will not serve the best interests of the township.

"We strongly urge that the public meeting and accompanying council discussions should fall under the new council's purview after the election, and not rushed through by an outgoing council," Swift said.

Usher said there's no way to tell when this council or the next will decide to approve or nix the development application.

"That a public meeting taking place on Sept. 29 does not determine whether council will decide on the 29th, or decide on another date before the election, or leave a decision to the new council," Usher said. "Which course to follow is entirely council's decision and we will respect whatever council decides."

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It was a full house for Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's annual general meeting on Saturday, Sept. 17. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Long closed snowmobile corridor set to reopen

Pine Springs section of the "B" trail from Carnarvon to Bracebridge will open

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Staff Reporter

During the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's (HCSA) annual general meeting on Sept. 17, president John Enright announced the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs' (OFSC) "B" trail is reopening between Bracebridge and Carnarvon after years of closure.

"This is the biggest thing to happen in Haliburton snowmobiling in the last five years," Enright said. "This will be a huge thing for winter tourism in Haliburton County."

Enright explained that the "B" trail is essentially a trans-Ontario route for snowmobiles and ATVs to make it from Goderich across the province to Quebec.

This part of the trail was severed by a washout.

"Haliburton County and Muskoka are among the top places to snowmobile in Ontario. Having an alternate route to the "B" trail that was less than satisfactory and not as safe was not ideal. We're so excited to hopefully have more snow so that we can have more visitors coming from the west," Enright said.

A new seven-foot-wide culvert is set to be installed on Pine Springs Road where the washout occurred.

"We have every expectation that it will be open for the coming season," Enright said.

The project is made possible by a group effort between HCSA, OFSC, Bancroft Minden Forest Company, Haliburton ATV Association, and Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists.

President of the Haliburton ATV Association Joel Bocknek said to the *Echo*, "This is very exciting news, and the work has been long overdue. This section of trail along Pine Springs Road is a vital link to several of our trails that branch off from Pine Springs Road. This link makes it possible for ATVs and other ORV enthusiasts to readily and safely access these other trails regardless if they are novice or experienced riders."

At the HCSA AGM, members celebrated the 51st anniversary of the asso-



ciation at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

Among announcing the reopening of the Pine Springs section of the "B" trail, the meeting highlighted successes and challenges from their past snowmobile season and looked forward to the upcoming year.

From the trail report

The "B" Trail has a new reroute from the north end of Haliburton Lake into the forest to Ross Lake Road. This part of the trail is a \$10,000 project.

HCSA trail 7 has been rerouted back to its original route approaching Pocket Lake. This trail is also rerouted in a second location from Hilltop Road to the Ontario Hydro Corridor.

On Trail 10, \$5,000 is being used for bridge improvement.

There will be a closure in the OFSC B112 route from the South Lake bridge to Hospitality Road. A reroute will take sledders across South Lake.

"Minden would be cut off to riders if this reroute didn't happen. This is one of the most challenging areas in the prov-

ince to build trails because of road allowances, private properties, and lakes," Enright said. "We're fortunate enough to have community acceptance and private land owners who allow us to have trails on their properties."

HCSA volunteers and staff

The association withstood two difficult years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The past year was difficult for trail conditions with only one significant snowfall throughout the whole season.

"It was not the best year for consistent snow. We had two trails that weren't open last year," Enright said.

Acquiring more volunteers and staff was a main theme of the meeting.

"We all have one thing in common," Enright said about current HCSA volunteers, "Grey hair. We need some younger volunteers to share as little or as most time they can. Any amount of time is helpful."

Noah Black received the Groomer Operator of the Year award for the 2022



Haliburton County Snowmobile Association president John Enright presented to a large crowd at their annual general meeting held at the AJ LaRue Arena on Sept. 17. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

year.

Scott and Sherri Patterson and their children received the Family of the Year award.

Brad Griffin received the Volunteer of the Year award.

The HCSA board has 10 members. Cole Finlay and Ted Roberts were re-elected, and Paul Wilson, Sheri Patterson, Rob McTeague were newly elected to the board at the AGM.

More groomer operators are also needed for the 2022-2023 season to maintain the association's trails.

Enright commemorated two HCSA volunteers, Bill Wilson and Ron Fitch, who was also on the board of directors, who both passed away in 2022.

To learn more about HCSA and purchase trail passes for the 2023 season, visit hcsa.ca.

"I just want to say what an honour it's been for me to be president," Enright said. "We're a great big neighbourhood watch. Let's everybody be our neighbourhood watch."

Seeing the Highs of Highlands

Hike leader Sarah Bell holds up a wintergreen plant for hikers during the King Beaver Dam Hike, which was part of the Hike Haliburton Festival, on Friday, Sept. 23 at YMCA Wanakita. Bell took hikers on a walk for close to two hours and offered information about beavers such as physical characteristic traits and their behaviour before seeing the active beaver dam. There were 31 hikes scheduled for this year between Sept. 23 to 25 throughout the Highlands. /DARREN LUM Staff



Ziman leads a small group of hikers up the Waterfall Way trail (on the way to the Heritage Hike trail).



Bell points to the beaver dam during the King Beaver Dam Hike, which was part of the Hike Haliburton Festival.



Hikers take a moment to see the beaver dam (just out of view) and the surrounding environment it created during the King Beaver Dam Hike.



Ziman leads a small group of hikers across the walking bridge over Barnum Creek during the Discover Barnum Creek Nature Reserve hike,



Bell leads hikers back from seeing the beaver dam during the King Beaver Dam Hike, which was part of the Hike Haliburton Festival,



Fia Scuhr Marziali, from left, Grace Wilson and Rama Wiso were among the 342 students who walked and ran for Terry Fox.



Ty Neville, from left, and Tyler Johnston were among the students who walked and ran for Terry Fox.



J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School teacher Jessica Madamba, who helped organize the event, walks with colleagues Erin Burtch and Maxeen Smith and students such as Louise Primavera (in yellow) during the school's Terry Fox Run. The school continues to tally their fundraised total and is the first time since the pandemic that the school has raised money for the Terry Fox Foundation. /DARREN LUM Staff

Remembering Terry

There were 342 students who walked and ran for Terry Fox during J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School's effort to remember the Canadian hero on Friday, Sept. 23 in Haliburton. The event also included 20 JDHES staff members who participated, encouraged participation and kept children on course, fed with donated apples from the Haliburton Foodland. The school's "PA and LS" classes created positive messages and images on the school's back walkway to help inspire participants to keep going. /DARREN LUM Staff



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points of view



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• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275
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DAVID ZILSTRA
Publisher and Ad Director, ext. 37,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

DARREN LUM, Editor
ext. 38, darren@haliburtonpress.com

JENNIFER MCEATHRON, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

DEBBIE COMER, Circulation
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

VIVIAN COLLINGS, Reporter
ext. 39 vivian@haliburtonpress.com

JAMES MATTHEWS,
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter
james@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTATIVO, Production

APRIL MARTIN, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
ext. 32, laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Home is in the mind, the heart

THE PAST few years I've fully realized my middle-age chapter of life.

I have the longer than what used to be normal for my thirties recovery time to feel 100 per cent from mountain bike rides and trail runs. Scars don't seem to heal like they used to and indigestion is a factor when perusing a menu.

Part of this time has included consideration for what is the idea of what home is.

Is it the conventionally understood idea: The house with a white picket fence, partner, child and pet. I'm sure in this day and age the idea is a variety of answers, which is a good thing. Particularly since I don't have any of these things.

I still wonder if home is a physical place? A concept? A feeling? Is it all of these things?

Maybe at its foundation home needs to be any place where you feel safe from the world when it all seems to not be going well. It's a place where those you are with don't make you feel small or shut you out with walls, but open their heart. So, perhaps it's anywhere a person or persons feels safe and comfortable with who they are. All the good. All the bad. And everything in-between. I don't know for sure. It's an idea.

There's plenty of often used idioms about home: "Home is where the heart is" and "home sweet home."

Can home be lost, so by that logic is it something you just find then? I believe it's something you have to create. You build it like a house, with a subframe of trust and belief, but the bricks of love need the mortar of care, compassion and understanding to bind them. Happiness isn't so much a requisite, as it is a byproduct of the

atmosphere created in a home. At my age, I've spent more time away from my childhood home, which was created by my parents, than where I am now. So, is the Highlands my home?

What I know for certain is that there can't be a home without a feeling of belonging, whether it's the acceptance of the people that I share space with like planets in the a solar system.

That would rule out home being any one particular physical place and more of a feeling in the mind where you feel safe and accepted. It's an idea.

So, perhaps, home is within us all. It's not a place. It's not anything tangible. It's something we all can carry within ourselves and can share wherever we go. Home can be a tent on a backpacking trip. Home can be a vehicle, carrying dreams for a better life. I think I ascribe to the idiom, "Home is where you hang your hat."

With how difficult it is to get housing now, I believe it's more important than ever to value what we have. Whatever it is.

Whether it's the three-bedroom house that is silent from the absence of children long gone to adult lives, which is owned by the retired couple, comfortable with routine; the single-bedroom house for the bachelor, content with takeout and always ready for hunting season; the basement apartment for the woman that is happy alone with memories and a future full of passion, and the sublet room rented by the young adult, eager to fulfill a vision of opportunities. These are all homes to them. I don't own a house, but I know what home is and its within me, always, wherever I am.



darren lum

Editorial



Autumn sunburst

by Darren Lum

Miracles

SOMEONE RECENTLY said to me, "Look for miracles, not problems."

I was thinking about that as I worked in our garden starting to clean it up for the winter. A garden is a place where miracles happen. When you start planning and planting and digging in the garden in the spring you just have no idea what will happen. There are so many possibilities with the unpredictable weather, the amount and kind of critters that will show up and the condition of the seeds or plants that you put in. One just doesn't know what will evolve and yet, one has hope and patience, and these feelings begin again every year. I would have to say to start with, it was a miracle that none of the many deer in our neighbourhood managed to break into our garden this year. Our fencing works!

Those who live in our subdivision will understand. But there are other miracles as well. Our zinnias have been spectacular. Tall. Colourful. Wild. They stood beside our cone flowers, bee balm, flox, dahlias, gladiolas, liatris and a couple of flowering bushes. So much colour. Our sunflowers grew at the other end of the garden and were doing so well until a big windstorm blew them all over. Jim grows roses as a tribute to his dad every year and they were beautiful this year. Our rhubarb patch gave us lots of fruit for crisps this summer and we also managed to freeze a couple of bags for a mid winter treat. A new veggie for us to grow was runner beans. My par-

ents love them with roasts in the winter, and so we tried them for the first time. Not only do we have beans in the freezer, but we enjoyed their colourful flowers all summer. Jim is very organized and meticulous when he plants his garlic, kale, lettuce, peas, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and other veggies. He even makes a map each spring. I on the other hand walk around with seeds and do my random acts of planting. Morning glories climb randomly. Nasturtiums line the

garden and pop up in our planters. Cosmos surprise us everywhere. One of our greatest miracles this year happened on our new hill. When we built the addition onto our house for my parents our yard got dug up and re-configured. We now have a new hill that we have been planting flowers on. In the spring, we flung a

big bag of wildflower mix onto the hill hoping that something would grow. To our delight, lots of flowers have grown and my favourite has been a good number of poppies. Beautiful, whimsical red, pink and purple poppies. We've tried those mixes before and not had a lot of luck. This year we had a little miracle. They make me smile every day. Spending time in a garden fills the soul. The gardener is in direct contact with all of life. The liveliness and the loveliness. The sun shines on every plant, equally. Fruits, veggies, weeds and flowers. The sun shines equally on all gardeners.

"Look for miracles, not problems."

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Shame, shame, shame

"OH, THIS is really bad," I said, as I read the news on my phone.

"What's bad?" Jenn replied.

"The Fat Leonard news story," I answered.

"I read it," she said. "He was a fugitive from the law. They caught him. What is so bad about that?"

Jenn was right. On the surface, it seemed fair. After all, Fat Leonard was on Interpol's most wanted list as a key player in the largest bribery and corruption scandal in the US Navy's history. But what she was missing was that the story had even more serious, far-reaching repercussions than that.

You see, Fat Leonard was no longer fat.

Apparently, he had lost a lot of weight since his last mug shot. And yet his nickname stuck. Personally, I thought, this was not right. Professionally, I thought, where were the fact checkers?

"Look at him," I said. "They're calling him Fat Leonard and I'm probably fatter than he is. And I'm not even fat."

I looked over to see Jenn covering her mouth.

"Right?" I replied.

"Oh ... no ... you are not fat at all," she said. "There's no fat on you. You ... you ... are the ideal weight ... Yeah ... That's it! ... Not fat ... No, no, no ..."

And then she quickly left the room.

But she was not fooling anyone – least of all me. You see, I can read Jenn like a book – and, believe me, I've read one. So, I knew exactly what she was trying to do. She was trying to

spare my feelings by throwing me off the scent. What she was actually thinking was quite obvious– she was trying not to body shame me for being too skinny.

The funny thing is, lately, I have thought, I could probably stand to lose a few pounds. But I am not sure if that is a fair assessment. I mean all I have to go by is photos of myself – which are unreliable. I mean, they used to say the camera adds 10 pounds. But I bought a good one, so I'm assuming mine adds a lot more.

And, then there are our mirrors at home, which I can only assume came from a funhouse. How else can you explain that when I see Jenn's reflection in those mirrors, she looks tall and trim, yet somehow, those same mirrors make me look short and squat?

Regardless, this Fat Leonard thing should be worrisome for all of us. If only because it is mean to nickname a person based on their perceived flaws.

Later, when I caught up to Jenn again, I said, "It's just not right."

"What's not right?" she said.

"Giving that Leonard fellow a nickname based on his most obvious perceived failing. It's mean. What would people think if you started calling me Too Intelligent Steve?" I asked.

"I would if it was opposite day," she replied.

"It could happen. Remember that time that salesperson in the shoe store called me Einstein?"

"You put the shoes you wanted to try on the wrong feet, and wondered why they seemed too snug," she said.

"Like you've never done that?" I said.

She looked at me and shook her head slowly while taking another slow, deep breath. And I immediately picked up on the message she was trying to send. As I said, I can read her like a book.

That evening, I had a second helping of dinner and two slices of pie.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

Circa 1910, the lower end of the Walling's farm and the related out-buildings, which was taken from what was at the time called Lake Shore Road (now Highland Street) and, likely, in the vicinity of the present-day Silver Maple Motel. The photo was taken by Haliburton merchant Daniel Gorrie (1856 to 1941), who snapped several local photographs between 1907 and 1913. The Walling home is mixed in with the cluster of buildings at centre, its two dormers and some verandah posts are discernible. The buildings at the left are unknown, but possibly pertain to the former Haliburton Cheese Factory, which once stood on present-day Walling's Road. /Submitted by Steve Hill

letters to the editor

Special public meeting this Thursday

To the Editor ...

The Municipality of Dysart et al has called an important public meeting for 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29 to hear the Harburn Holdings application for an Official Plan and zoning bylaw change that would pave the way for lot severance and construction of 88 condo units and commercial units on a thin ribbon of land adjacent to the Grass Lake wetlands. We urge interested parties to attend by Zoom, as noted below.

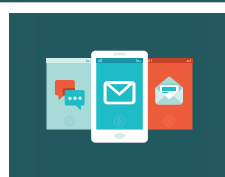
Hundreds of area residents are against this proposal, which infringes on a fragile natural area of critical ecological function of service to Haliburton Village and the Lake Kashagawigamog watershed. Nine hundred people have signed two petitions opposing the application and urging both Dysart council and Haliburton County to adopt green infrastructure planning to ensure that the environment receives the highest level of protec-

tion in land use planning.

Public announcements about this potentially precedent setting decision have been minimal. We strongly encourage interested residents to attend by Zoom on Sept. 29. Members of the public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the live-stream link, available on the municipality of Dysart's website on the day of the meeting: dysartetal.civicweb.net/portal/.

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comments/speak at the meeting regarding the proposed amendments need to pre-register by emailing korsan@dysartetal.ca before 4 p.m. on Sept. 28.

**Yours in responsible
environmental stewardship,
Don Ross on behalf of
The Friends of Grass Lake**



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
darren@haliburtonpress.com

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Grittiness
showcased in
Gooderham

Competitors race for the holeshot during the 68th Promotion Corduroy Enduro on the track behind the Robert McCausland Memorial Community Centre in Gooderham on Saturday, Sept. 24. This multi-day event, which offered a \$11,500 purse, included hundreds of riders competing from Sept. 22 to 25. Presented by GP Bikes, this event also included the Vintage Grand Prix and Vintage Bike Show. New this year were the e-mountain bike and electric enduro races. /DARREN LUM Staff



A competitor eyes the next corner during the 68th Promotion Corduroy Enduro on the track behind the Robert McCausland Memorial Community Centre in Gooderham.



Above, a competitor gets out ahead of his competition.



There was more than racing during the 68th Promotion Corduroy Enduro. This multi-day event included a vintage bike show.

Highlands Opera Studio's new initiative sings to local youth

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Staff Reporter

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) is offering a new job opportunity for a person interested in opera to introduce the art form to the next generation of local young adults.

"Highlands Opera Studio will be moving into our 17th season in 2023, and all these years, we have had a presence in the summer, but we don't have a presence during the year. In light of not only wanting to expand the understanding of what it is we do for young people, we want to bring it down to earth and make young people feel like opera could be relevant to them if they give it a try," said Valerie Kuinka, general and co-artistic director of HOS.

HOS recently received a grant from Haliburton County Development Corporation's Local Initiatives Program for a new young adult opera club program and the ability to hire a club director.

Allowing local youth an introduction to the opera community is what HOS desired to do since its formation in 2007.

"It's eluded us how to do this. Very happily, the Haliburton County Development Corporation felt it was a good fit with their local initiative program. I applied to that, and here we are, happily in the position of being able to expand our own personnel through the hiring of this position, and then also to, by extension, include more of the young people in Haliburton County into our world, which is a very welcoming world of people," Kuinka said.

The position is part-time and is for 13 weeks. The successful candidate will work closely with the general and co-artistic director of HOS to organize and run creative social events in Haliburton County for young adults.

"It's going to be exciting and challenging to find a way to bridge the gap," Kuinka said.

Another part of the new youth program will be to take a field trip to Toronto to see an opera in the Four Seasons Centre for Performing Arts.

"It's another means of human expression and human emotion. All the stories are very real stories: love, betrayal, unrequited love, all the things that everybody goes through all the time," Kuinka said about opera as an art form.

One of HOS' pre-existing summer programs, "Why Choose Opera?" is a pay-what-you-can event and highlights how beneficial it is for young people to be introduced to opera.

All participants of this event are between the ages of 19 and 25, and they come from all over Canada and some-



Highlands Opera Studio hosted "Why Choose Opera?" this past summer at Abbey Gardens. /Photo by Brenden Friesen

times other parts of the world.

"They come to improve their own skills at an already-accomplished level of operatic singing but, we want to share with the community how these young people find opera in the first place."

She said many came from rock bands, folk groups, choirs, and church groups before being introduced to opera.

"They found, as one of our participants put it, 'It's just more music.' It's not such a stretch when you have a chance to hear it and meet the people that are devoting their lives to it. That's what we want to do. We want to connect the young people that are in our program as emerging professional singers with the community. They really have a lot in common, they just need to give it a try."

The new local youth-focused program will also be a

way for HOS to build on other successful initiatives such as their Highlands Opera Community School and Pay-What-You-Can online singing lessons which were also supported by HCDC.

Applicants should have their vulnerable sector certification, experience in working with youth and young adults, excellent communication skills, advanced computer skills, and a strong desire to learn about opera and be engaged in activities.

To apply, send a resume and short statement of intent to valerie@highlandsoperastudio.com.

"We're all just out there trying to create something beautiful. We're all just artists, and that's the bottom line. If you like the arts, if you like music, if you like theatre, come find out more about opera," Kuinka said.

Chamber challenges all levels of governments to resolve housing crisis

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce requests that government, at all levels, provide a crisis response to the ongoing housing crisis in our county.

The deepening negative impacts upon the community and its local business owners must be factored more heavily than in more traditional times. Delaying, denying, or not utilizing all available resources to address this issue should now come with an acknowledgement that these negative impacts continue to worsen.

"It's a different world now that requires a willingness to change the way and the speed at which things are done. This is about neighbours and friends who are under incredible stress that need to be prioritized in the decision-making and planning processes," said chamber executive director Robert Gaudette.

The lack of attainable primary housing impedes the ability of employers to recruit talent from outside the county. Relocation efforts fail due to the lack of inventory and the feasibility of commuting to the county; compounded by rising energy prices. Immigration focused strategies in filling the labour shortage cannot overcome the inability to house skilled labour within the county. Currently, leaving the sole strategy of re-engaging with community members who have left or are experiencing barriers to the labour market, which is a highly complex and multi faceted pursuit. Without adequate staffing, owners are working additional hours to offset the lack of employees and/or reduce operations resulting in increased financial stress. The business community requires an immediate and multi-

pronged approach to support their recruitment efforts. Their personal and family wellbeing, economic impact and vital contributions to the community are critical to the success of the county.

These issues are barriers to the economic recovery and future growth for these local business operators.

"There are long term implications of the additional workload and stressors upon the business community, including the collateral effects of a reduction in the availability of local products and services, a reduced capacity to serve the tourism needs of its visitors, stress-related physical and mental health impacts, strategic reduction in the reliance on staff in investment and business modelling, and a reduction in the ability to attract new business/investment into the community," said Mark Bell, president of the Board of the Directors.

It is with confidence and optimism that the chamber and its members anticipate government at all levels providing a response equal to the level of crisis being experienced. One that explores incentivization, red tape reduction and the utilization of all available resources. Acknowledging that inaction and delay allow the negative impacts upon the wellbeing of local operators and our local economy to deepen, a recalibration of decision-making weights has become more important than ever.

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce



WINTER GUIDE IS COMING SOON!

To see your local free event listed in our
Winter Guide Magazine, email
HaliburtonWinterGuide@gmail.com

The guide will include events that take place
in December 2022, and January,
February, March, April 2023.
Listing Deadline is October 7, 2022





Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Wednesday, October 12th, 2022
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment will be held as an electronic meeting only.
The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2022-018-Culp
 - The following variance is requested to permit construction of a dwelling on a property in the WR4 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a maximum lot coverage to be 18.4% as opposed to the required maximum of 15%.
 - Location: Part Lot 14, Concession 4, Lot 30, Plan 331 in the Geographic Township of Harburn, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (Dignan Drive).
2. D13-MV-2022-019 Brown
 - The following variance is requested to permit construction of a shed/pump house on a property in the WR4L zone:
 - a) A decrease to the provisions of section 5.2 to permit a shed/pump house to have a minimum water setback of 7.3 metres (23 feet) as opposed to the required 20 metres (66 feet).
 - Location: Part Lot 18, Concession 10, Lot 31, Plan 348 in the Geographic Township of Harburn, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (Logan Dr).
3. D13-MV-2022-021 Shields
 - The following variance is requested to permit a dwelling to have an increased structure height on a property in the WR4 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a maximum structure height of 10.73 metres (35.20 feet) as opposed to the required 9.5 metres (31.2 feet).
 - Location: Part Lot 14, Concession 4, Lot 27, Plan 331 in the Geographic Township of Harburn, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (Canyon Rd).

Council passed By-law 2020-69 to amends the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-law to permit electronic participation in meetings. **There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at jiles@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions. **A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer,
Committee of Adjustment



Smiling through the Hurtin'

Lots of smiles were seen while bikers raced at the fourth annual Hurtin' in Haliburton gravel race held Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve on Saturday, Sept. 17. The event, which includes solo and relay races, was held from Sept. 16 to 18. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Groups of people biked together to complete their laps.

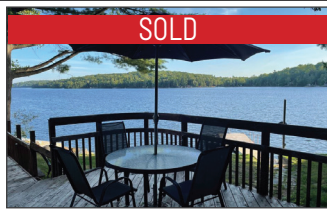


A biker races towards the finish line during one of his loops of the Hurtin' in Haliburton.



Jim Allder*
705-935-1112

North Pigeon Lake \$810,900
• 3 bedroom / 1 bathroom, 900 SqFt
• Fully Winterized, Newly Built Bunkie
• Large Updated Windows Overlooking Lake
• Breathtaking Sunrise Views



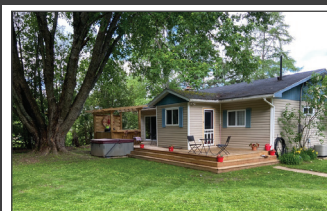
Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Kushog Lake
• Big Lake Views
• Western Exposure
• Sandy Bottom
• Deep Off Dock



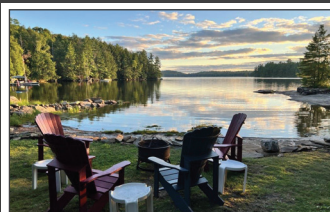
Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Hunter Creek Rd \$1,400,000
• Class B licensed pit & quarry
• 88 acres close to Minden
• Potential to sever lots



Andy Campbell
854-0292

Pine Lake \$1,199,000
• 5 Beds / 3 Baths, 2,400 Sq Ft
• 1.36 Acres, Heated 3 Car Garage
• Outdoor Kitchen, Hot Tub & Guesthouse
• Only 15 Minutes From Town of Haliburton!



Gloria Carnochan* & Brea Budel*
754-1932

Kennisis Lake \$1,395,000
• 3 Beds / 1 Bath Home or Ctg w/ 120ft frontage
• New Upgrades, All Windows, Roof, Insulation
• Yr Rd Sunrm, New Deck With Glass, Level Lot
• Unbelievable Beach & Views, Sunsets, Boat Hse



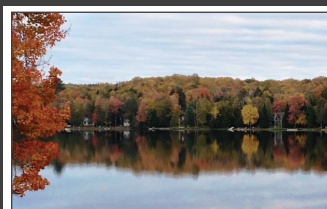
Mark Denny*
457-0473

HALIBURTON CONDOMINIUM - \$739,900
• 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
• Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
• Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
• Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails



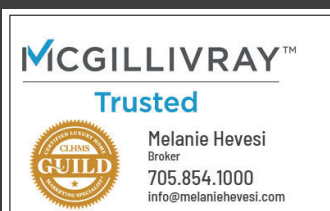
Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Beech Lake \$819,000
• Open concept 3-season cottage with 4 bedrooms
• Oversized 1 car-garage with an updated bunkie
• Clean, hard-packed sand beach & big lake views
• Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

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• Strike while the market is hot!



Melanie Hevesi**
854-1000

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• Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist
• Thinking about selling in today's market?
• Call ME TODAY!



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Loon Lake \$1,150,000
• 4 season cottage or home, 3 bedrooms + office
• Updated throughout with stunning landscaping
• 1,750 SQ FT garage or shop w/ separate driveway
• Large dock across the road with great lake access



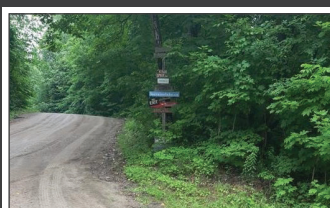
Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Little Kennisis Dream Cottage! \$1,999,900
• Custom timber-frame Discovery Dream Home
• 3 bedrooms with loft, plus bunkie
• Sunset views, 110' deep clean shoreline



Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

Oblong Lake \$649,000
• 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
• Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
• Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
• Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Build your Dream Home in Tory Hill!
• 187 acres of mixed bush, \$675,000
• Property has an insulated cabin 20 x 20
• Access to Crown Land immediately across the road
• 20 mins from Haliburton, 10 mins from Wilberforce



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Salerno Lake
• 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 935 sq. ft.
• 102ft of Waterfront, Delightful Lakeside Bunkie
• Private Lot with Clean, Clear Waterfront
• Year Round, Private Road



Karen Nimigon*
457-6505

Drag Lake \$1,499,000
• MOTIVATED SELLER!
• 4 bedrooms / 2 baths, 1600 sq. ft.
• Child-friendly sand beach, 2-Lake Boating
• Updated, 4 Season & Close to Town



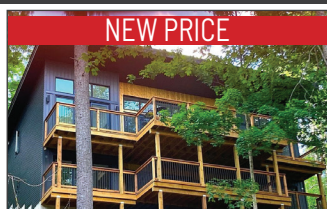
Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Haliburton Condo \$749,000
• Luxurious waterfront condo in Haliburton
• 1117 sq ft, 2 bath, 2 bedrooms plus den/office
• Many upgrades plus incredible water views from every room!



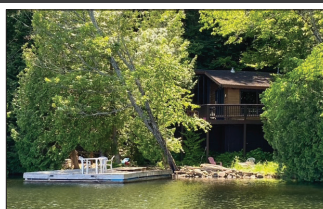
Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Loop Road
• \$189,000
• Very Private
• 4+ Acreage in Harcourt
• Several Choices of Building Sites



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Modern Treehouse \$895,000
• 3 Bdrm/2 Bath, 2,400 Sq Ft
• Two 600 SF decks overlooking Drag River
• Facing South For All Day Sun
• Few Minutes From All Amenities of Town



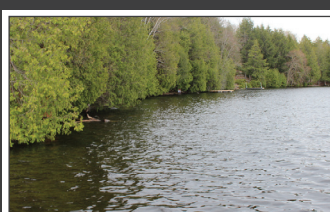
Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Loon Lake \$499,000
• 2 Bdrm / 1 Bath, 500 sqft
• 187 feet of Very Clean Waterfront
• Sits on 1.273 Acres
• Water Access Only



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Wiley Lake \$299,000
• Secluded parcel with 130 FT of lake frontage
• Clean shoreline with North-Western exposure
• 2.3-acres to build your dream escape
• No motor lake with great fishing & paddling!



Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Salerno Lake: \$349,000
• 172' waterfront Lot
• 1.17 acres
• Sunset exposure
• Ideal for walkout basement



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Haliburton Home \$625,000
• 4 Beds / 2 Baths, 2500 Sq Ft
• 2.3 Acre Lot, Walking Distance to Haliburton
• Potential for a Lower-Level In-Law Suite

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Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

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ken@kenbarry.com

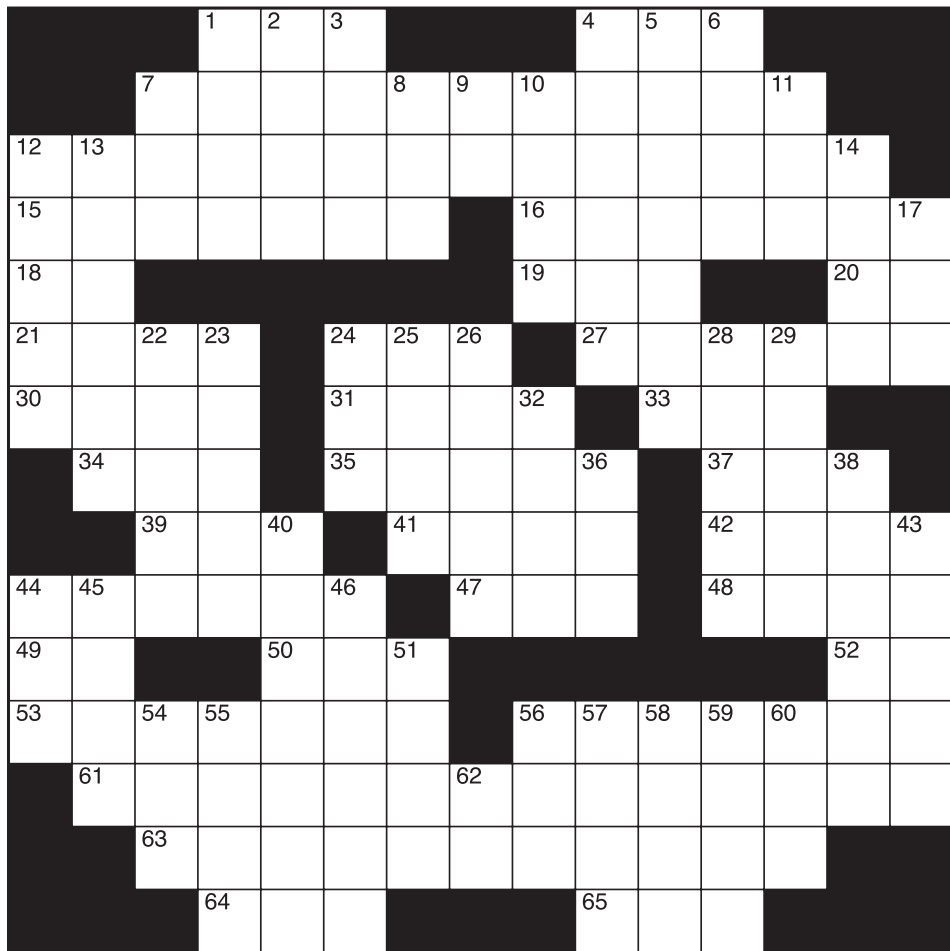
Jacquie Barry
Realtor®
705-457-0652
jacquie@kenbarry.com

"Out Standing In Our Field"



RE/MAX
PROFESSIONALS
NORTH





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unhappy
- 4. Clairvoyance
- 7. One who works under you
- 12. What happens there stays there
- 15. Not ingested
- 16. Got the picture
- 18. One thousandth of a gram
- 19. Breakfast item
- 20. About
- 21. Tall deciduous trees
- 24. Safe keeping receipt
- 27. Cowardly
- 30. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 31. Herring-like fish
- 33. A very large body of water
- 34. Angle (abbr.)
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 37. White clerical vestment
- 39. Cool!
- 41. Matchstick games
- 42. Thick piece of something
- 44. A state that precedes vomiting
- 47. Burned item residue
- 48. Jaguarundi
- 49. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 50. The home of "60 Minutes"
- 52. Dorm official
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. One who is learning the job
- 61. Popular R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. Attentively
- 64. CNN's founder
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fijian capital
- 2. Assist
- 3. Elected lord in Venice
- 4. The capacity of a physical system to

do work

- 5. People of the wild
- 6. Parent-teacher groups
- 7. Midway between south and south-east
- 8. Moved quickly on foot
- 9. Handheld Nintendo console
- 10. "Top of the Stairs" playwright
- 11. Electronic data processing
- 12. "Dog Day Afternoon" director
- 13. Leaned
- 14. About aviation
- 17. Mountain is a popular type
- 22. Lake along Zambia and Congo border
- 23. Heroic tales
- 24. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 25. "Star Trek" villain
- 26. Hand gesture popular on social media
- 28. Renters have one
- 29. Tubular steel column
- 32. Database management system
- 36. Similar
- 38. Providing no shelter or sustenance
- 40. Death
- 43. What a sheep did
- 44. Midcentury Asian battleground
- 45. Horizontal passage into a mine
- 46. Mortified
- 51. Improper word
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. It can be hot or iced
- 57. Tough outer skin of a fruit
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Misfortunes
- 60. Negative
- 62. Camper

Answers on page 12

School of Rock being staged by Camexicanus

DARREN LUM

Editor

Finding a theatrical experience to enhance youth development is well underway thanks to the Camexicanus' ambition to stage School of Rock The Musical.

At its heart, the School of Rock is a story about being true to who you are and not caring what societal expectations there are as far as conformity. Well known by fans of Hollywood actor Jack Black, who starred in the feature length movie with the same name from 2003, the story is about a struggling guitarist who is left needing work and takes a job teaching music to students.

Co-founder and director of Camexicanus Greg Sadlier said they chose to stage School of Rock because the story is about how a group of young people are misunderstood, overlooked or ignored by adults in their lives and how individual adults can make a difference by supporting and fostering growth, which is what he and his staff attempt to do.

"It really resonates with what we do ... wow, this is us. This is what we do and, really, that shines through even more so in the musical than the movie. It really does get deeper I think. Where it is about the journey of these kids discovering who they are, despite their surroundings. And I think that is going to be mirrored in the experience of our kids," Sadlier said.

Camexicaus held School of Rock auditions recently and currently has 14 cast members, but Sadlier said there are still spots available.

"We'll make a spot," he said. He added they double-cast certain roles to ensure there was more opportunity for people to be able to participate.

Darian Willis, assistant director and student leader with Camexicanus, said this is a unique opportunity for young people to grow.

"It takes a lot of encouraging and pushing kids to get to that point. So, the fact that we already have so many kids that are ready, willing and able just to jump in and are ready to take on big roles. I think it's really important that each and every-one of them get a good role," he said.

He adds for youth these kinds of experiences are important because it builds self-confidence by getting youth to try new things and get out of their comfort zone.

Among the other benefits of this musical is how it brings together youth from all kinds of backgrounds, which includes the rep hockey player and possibly a child that doesn't love hockey, but loves to act. It can "shake up the paradigm," Sadlier said.

Any perceived social structures disappear, he added.

Providing the inspiration for youth is at the foundation of the Music2gether music lessons, which are private "pay what you can" lessons (in vocal, electric and acoustic guitar, theory, piano and drums) for anyone from Grade 1 to 12 after school. Adults are also encouraged to participate in lessons, which are \$20 and help to support the children's offering happening weekly in Haliburton at the Haliburton Highlands Museum on Tuesdays, at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden on Wednesdays and at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre in Wilberforce on Thursdays. Lessons are 30 minutes and the duration of time is from the end of school until early evening, which can be close to 7 p.m.

Camexicanus has grown a lot from only offering several programs to only a couple dozen of local children and youth to 180 children and youth all over the province. Sadlier said the programming has been modelled after examples from around the world. In particular, the pay what you can music lessons being offered to children and adults this year is an idea from Mexico. The learning that takes place by all ages is central and fosters an atmosphere that learning is a lifelong pursuit.

An open stage opportunity for young people is courtesy of Camexicanus, who will be at this weekend's Colourfest enabling performances of all kinds at the bandshell in Head Lake Park at 6:30 p.m.

School of Rock performances are expected at the end of November. Purchase tickets and see specific dates on Camexicanus' website camexicanus.ca.

For more information and to register for the music lessons see www.camexicanus.ca or email info@camexicanus.ca.



Adding to autumn's celebration

David Zilstra from the Haliburton BIA helped put up fall decorations around Haliburton Village for this year's Colourfest happening Saturday, Oct. 1. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

HE climate tip: summary

Over the past several months, the Highlands East Environment Committee has provided ways that we as individuals can reduce our carbon footprints. Canadians are among the top 10 carbon emitters in the world and our country is warming at more than twice the rate as the rest of the world. We all, each and every one of us, have a responsibility to reduce our carbon emissions and we need to do it ambitiously and rapidly.

Some important ways that we as individuals can reduce our carbon contributions are eating less meat, flying less, and conserving fuels, whether it be by insulating our homes, buying an electric vehicle or electric power tools. We can move towards renewable energy by having solar panels. We can install heat pumps. We can choose to have a smaller house or a smaller lawn. And we can reduce the organic waste that goes to landfill sites by reducing our food waste and composting

in our back yards. Reducing our methane emissions has been identified as a priority by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Biodiversity is also in crisis and is as big a problem as climate change. We can support wildlife and pollinators by planting native plants, shrubs and trees, converting our lawns from grass to white clover, by protecting wetlands and shorelines and by not setting off fireworks. We can change our behaviours, such as not idling our vehicles in parking lots. We can dry our clothes on a clothesline. We can practice the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair.

In summary, we need to view all of our decisions through the lens of climate change and the best place to start is in our own back yards.

Submitted by Susan Hay

HE climate tip of the week:

How you drive your car can save you money and help the climate

You can save hundreds of dollars in fuel each year, improve road safety and prevent wear on your vehicle by adopting these fuel-efficient driving techniques to lower your vehicle's fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 25 per cent:

- go easy on the gas pedal (The harder you accelerate the more fuel you use.)
- maintain a steady speed where possible.
- anticipate traffic. (By observing what pedestrians and other cars are doing, you can anticipate the necessity to change your speed.)
- keep to the speed limit and save on fuel! (At 120 kilometres per hour, a vehicle uses about 20 per cent more fuel than at 100 kilometres per hour.)
- conserve fuel and save money by taking your foot off the accelerator and coasting to slow down instead of using your brakes.
- avoid idling! Turn off your engine when you're stopped for more than 60 seconds, except when in traffic. Idling wastes fuel, costs you money, results in greenhouse gas emissions and can actually harm your engine.
- don't carry unnecessary weight. The less it weighs, the less fuel your vehicle will use. The fuel consumption of a mid-size car increases by about 1 per cent for every 25 kilograms of weight it carries.
- take off roof racks when you're not using them. Aerodynamic drag can



Regularly check your tire pressure to ensure driving is at its most efficient. /Submitted by Andrew Von Zuben, member of the Highlands East Environment Committee

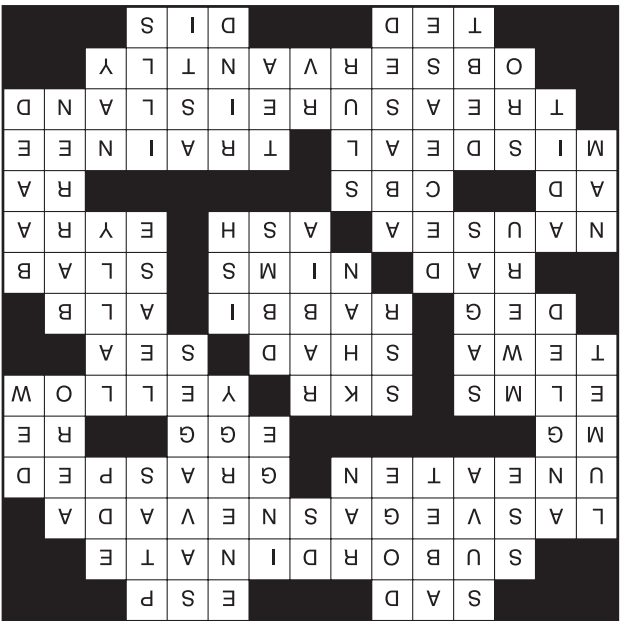
increase fuel consumption by as much as 20 per cent on the highway.

- air conditioning can increase a vehicle's fuel consumption by as much as 20 per cent. If you use air conditioning, use the re-circulate option to make it more efficient.
- check your tire pressure frequently. Tire pressure drops in cold weather and can influence the handling, stopping time and wear of your tires as well as decrease fuel efficiency.
- drive less and share the ride when possible.

Source www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/transportation-alternative-fuels/personal-vehicles/fuel-efficient-driving-techniques/21038.

Submitted by Susan Hay

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Goodbye

WELL, FALL is officially here and so are the changing colours of the leaves and a cool crispness in the air. The hustle and bustle of summer is behind us, and what a summer it was!

The return of festivals, events, music and a weekly Farmers Market resulted in a busy and buzzing village this summer. I hope you had a chance to take in some, if not all of the excitement and support our local downtown merchants.

With a change of season so too there is a change with your Downtown Haliburton BIA. After nearly two years working as the BIA's administrator, I will be making way for a new, enthusiastic individual to fill these shoes. I have enjoyed every minute of promoting our village and working alongside a talented and dedicated executive who work tirelessly behind the scenes to beautify our downtown core and strengthen our village's economy. I have loved getting to know the down-

town members and support their business in whatever way I can (even if it's hard on the wallet at times). I applaud each and every one of you for your commitment to the Haliburton Village and your efforts in making our town a beautiful place to live and visit.

But before I sign off, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Col-ourfest coming up on Saturday, Oct. 1. From 11 to 3 p.m. the village will be a hopping spot with face painting, a scarecrow contest, a classic car show, scavenger hunt and of course, the annual pumpkin rolling contest! There will be plenty to do so bring your entire family out for some wholesome, fall fun.

It won't be long before the snow flies (I know, I said it), so be sure to enjoy the fall foliage and the many exciting fall events happening throughout Haliburton County.

And last, but certainly not least, be sure to support your downtown and shop local.

BIA in



angelica
ingram

The Village





Home Games

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Saturday, Oct. 1 @ 3pm

vs Wellington Dukes

Sunday, Oct. 2 @ 3 pm

vs North York Rangers

Saturday, Oct. 8 @ 4 pm

Trenton Golden Hawks

For more more information please visit our website

Skyline Dance

STUDIO

GRAND OPENING

Saturday October 1, 2022

11am to 2pm at the Studio

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11am

Check out the space, meet some teachers and some board members.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Competitive and
Recreational Teams

Classes for Dancers
From Ages 2 to 18

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580 NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the Estate of Aileen Ann Bruce late of Haliburton County who died on or about the 17th day of March 2022 must be filed with the undersigned personal representative on or before the 3rd day of December 2022 after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims of which the Estate Trustee then shall have notice. Dated at Brampton this 12th day of September 2022. Katie M. Saldanha Prouse Dash & Crouch LLP 50 Queen Street West Brampton Ontario LOX 4H3

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Raymond was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend. Raymond left this world peacefully on September 18, 2022 surrounded by his family and friends.

Raymond was born on December 1, 1948 to Loretta and Francis Downs. Raymond married the love of his life Daisy Talboys Downs when he was 18 after they met while working together downtown Toronto; together they share two children Cheryl Downs and Tricia Noel.

Raymond loved spending time with his family, working at the thrift store and watching Hallmark movies on the W channel. Raymond is survived by his daughters Cheryl and Tricia. He was a proud Papa to 5 grandchildren Tiffany (Josh), David (Michelle), Eliesha (Jon), Maxine and Tess, he was Great Papa to Kianna, Mya, Elijah, Ari and Mariah. He is fondly remembered by his nephews Bruce (Judy), Rick (Wanda) and niece Theresa James.

A celebration of life will be held for Raymond at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon St., Minden on Saturday, October 1st, 2022 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Church.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF), YWCA Peterborough Haliburton or St. Paul's Anglican Church would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Larger classes but fewer teachers has board worried

by JANET HURLEY
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton Board of Education, which once enjoyed one of the best student to teacher ratios in the province, has slipped from a ninth place standing to 17th in just two years.

In 1990-92, classes in Haliburton County schools had, on average, 13 students for every teacher. This ratio placed Haliburton ninth out of 78 school boards in Ontario, with the province's average class size sitting at 13.8.

However, a hiring freeze, set by

the board two years ago, has not allowed staffing numbers to keep up with increasing enrolment. In two years, staffing has been reduced by two teachers while the overall number of students in the system has increased by 200.

"This is not by accident," Director of Education Brad

Saunders reminded trustees at a recent board meeting. "It came about from some difficult choices made to address the cost side (of education)."

Classes in Haliburton County schools currently consist of an average of 15 students for every teacher, and the board's student, teacher ratio now rates 17th in the province.

According to Saunders, this situation is unacceptable. "As a board you have a job to do to keep costs down, but you also have to guarantee quality."

While some individual schools within the system have as few as 11.2 students per class, almost all the schools have experienced an increasing number of students in the classroom over the past two years.

One of the greatest increases has been at Cardiff Elementary School. Classes have grown from an average of 11.1 students to 15.8.

"One shift that we have the most concern with is Cardiff," said Saunders. "Yes, it can be argued that we have other schools in need of extra staff...But it's the one place where the camel's back is being broken."

The problem at Cardiff rests with French instruction. Currently, French is being taught to mixed grades and class sizes

Please turn to page 2

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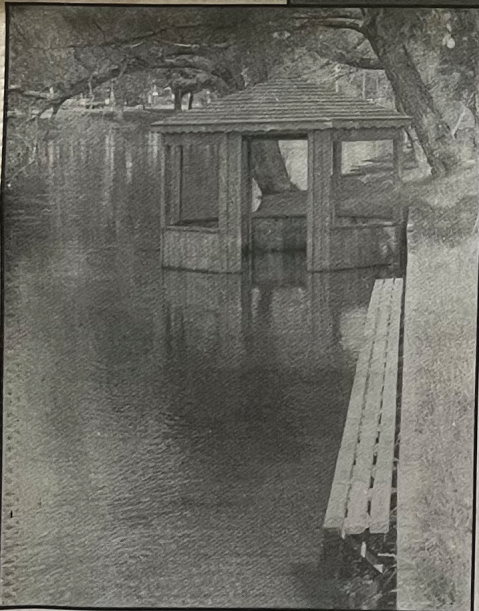


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Gull River Washout



Water from the Gull River swells over the banks in Minden after last week's rainfall helped to push water levels to the highest recorded levels since 1980.

Public Works Supervisor Clayton Cameron said several roads were flooded and washed out after last Monday's rain.

However, this past week, Mack Ellis of the Trent-Severn Waterways, noticed a small decrease in levels.

"If the weather behaves, we've possibly seen the worst," he said.

It is imperative that levels are reduced in time for Lake Trout spawning in the middle of October.



Lights out!

by JANET HURLEY
Staff Reporter

Only one week after West Guilford was ravaged by gale-force winds, a storm returned to Haliburton County, ripping up trees and downing power lines.

High winds and a pounding rain whipped through the county as well as most parts of Southern Ontario on Sunday. Winds near Toronto were reported to reach 70 km/h (45 m.p.h.). And in Haliburton County, felled trees took down hydro lines at around 1 p.m., leaving a large area of without power.

Everett McKnight, line supervisor with the Minden office of Ontario Hydro, said a combination of trees and wind took down main feeder lines.

"The area (in which hydro was out) was pretty wide spread because it was a 44,000 line," McKnight said. "We had 6,000 customers without power last night."

For Hydro crews, the storm meant a busy, exhausting 24 hours. A helicopter as well as crews from Fenelon Falls and Penetang were called in to assist.

The main feeder lines had to be repaired immediately.

"If you lose one of them, you lose most of your customers," said McKnight. "Nothing else can be done until the feeder is back on."

The main line was repaired by Sunday night and power restored to most customers by 7 p.m. However, some people were still without hydro Monday morning.

McKnight said there were still a six to eight broken hydro poles that need repairs before all power could be restored. He estimated hydro would be back on for everyone by Monday evening.

Koshlong Lake Road focus of complaints

by JILL SAWYER
Staff Reporter

Residents along the western shore of Koshlong Lake are worried that their road has become unsafe and impractical since it was moved and rebuilt this summer.

"I think this road is going to be a mess in the winter," says Janet Bradley, who lives year-round at the eastern end of Koshlong Lake Road. "It's going to ice up, and there's a part of it that's not wide enough for two cars. The bend isn't wide enough."

But Dysart et al Roads Supervisor Jim Taylor says "The road meets all the Ministry of Transportation standards. I guess everyone's got their own opinions."

Taylor says that before the road was rebuilt, it was one of two roads in the municipality that got the most complaints. It runs from the eastern edge of the village of Donald off County Road One, through a series of uphill turns to Koshlong Marina on the shore of the lake. Before reconstruction, it ran right through the marina's property, which didn't allow for a parking area. There was also a very sharp corner which could not be re-directed because of a large granite outcrop and financial concerns.

However the new council felt the job could be done.

Now, where the road meets the marina, the road has been cut over that granite hill, continuing around and past the marina to two side roads.

"Before, the road was at the bottom of that rock area and there was no drainage," Taylor says. "There were a lot of washouts."

Construction started this summer, and Taylor says the crew

decided it would be cheaper to build over the rock face rather than blast through it.

"The hill is a standard 10 per cent grade, going no higher than a 12 per cent grade," he says. "It's the proper height and the

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inside
the
echo

Creative Economics

Studio Tour a vital part of the economy

editorial

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Coming from Cardiff

Eastern students switch allegiance

this week

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Off to a Good Start

Football Redman are hard to beat

sports

See pages 8 & 9

Binding Family Ties

Hodgson's record their history

people

See page 17

Tax coalition not prepared to bow out

Group realizes importance of keeping councils accountable

by JILL SAWYER
Staff Reporter

Members of the Taxpayers' Coalition of Haliburton County realize that this is no time to sit back and relax.

The coalition has spent the past year monitoring local governments, vocalizing concern over the burden of tax, and helping to shape budgets, resulting in a reduction of the draft budgets of county council and the Board of Education by about 23 per cent. And although coalition Vice-President John Beachli says

where we can disband this organization," the group realizes that the process of keeping local councils accountable to the public is ongoing.

"There's a feeling of taking back the democratic process here," Beachli told about 40 people at the coalition's annual general meeting Saturday night at the Dysart Community Centre. That means more involvement in the decision-making process, and giving citizens a continuing voice in how their tax dollars are being spent.

Looking back on the past year, Beachli said the coalition, which

"started off as a sincere protest," grew so that local governments were influenced.

Earlier this year, the coalition lobbied to get county council and the Board of Education to release their budget proposals before final decisions were made, opening up the process to public comment. "The most important thing is that we opened up an excellent communication line," said Bill Payne, a coalition director.

Part of that was getting county council to disband its management committee, which consisted of only the 10 councilors. The coalition felt that most of the council's

important decisions were being made by this committee, while the open council meetings were mainly held to rubber-stamp the committee's decisions.

"The communication line was ready to be opened up," Payne said. "But it wasn't the right time. Now it's the right time."

The one-two punch of the GST and the recession probably helped add to the coalition's success this year, making tax an issue on every person's mind. "We can't take all the credit for getting the budgets down," Payne said, "because they knew there were some irate citizens out

there. It's just common sense."

The coalition is now trying to expand its horizons, working from the base laid during the past year. But members are choosing their battles carefully.

"We're leaving market value assessment alone," Payne said about the property tax issue that has been on the minds of most homeowners in Haliburton lately. "It's not a tax issue, it's an assessment issue. We'll only jump in if it creates a huge increase in our taxes."

Some of the county's other political hot potatoes will also be

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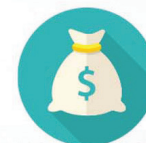
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The benchmark price was \$725,400 in August 2022, up 6.5% from \$681,100 in August 2021

*Based on residential data from the Lakeland Association of REALTORS® MLS® System.

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner



(705) 457.3461



contact@haliburtonrealestate.on.ca



www.haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

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